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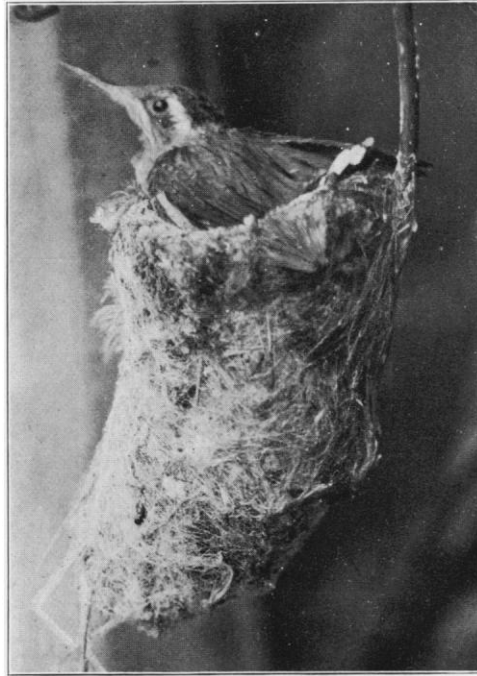


Fig. 22. YOUNG OF BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD ABOUT TO LEAVE NEST

ODDS AND ENDS

By JOSEPH MAILLIARD

Aix sponsa. Wood Duck. Coming across a small band of Wood Ducks in the fall of 1910, near the junction of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers, reminded me of the fact that it had been many a long day since I had seen one of these birds alive, and that while they used to be plentiful in Marin and Sonoma counties back in the seventies and eighties they are extremely scarce in those regions nowadays. As late as twenty-five years ago it was no uncommon thing to see Wood Ducks scattered in small groups along such a stream as the "Paper Mill" or "Lagunitas" creek in Marin county, or anywhere along the Santa Rosa Laguna in Sonoma county, even where quite a number of people lived in the vicinity and there was a good deal of travel along the streams. Often they were found in small tributaries and diminutive ponds along these waterways. But now, with the country rapidly filling up, and more shooting going on, none are to be met with in these their old and favorite haunts. So it was a great surprise, as well as a pleasure, to come across them again in Stanislaus county this year, the greater surprise for the reason that none were seen in the two previous years during which I have had opportunity to make observations there. This last fall (1910) several were seen on different occasions, one was taken, and one flock of fourteen, mostly males, was flushed from a small laguna among the willow thickets.

Herodias egretta. Egret. In view of the fact that this species was at one time nearly extinct in this state it is encouraging to the advocates of bird protection to note that these egrets are increasing in numbers. There are quite a number to be seen nowadays in the fall and winter in the lowlands and along the sloughs of the San Joaquin River. I have, in fact, seen as many as seven or eight at a time near the junction of the San Joaquin and Tuolumne rivers, and a group of two or three together is no uncommon sight in that locality. The sight of even one of these birds was a rare event for a number of years in most parts of the state, and is so yet in many places where they used to be quite common. In Marin county, for instance, one or two could be found in every small marsh thirty years ago, whereas I have not seen one there for many a long year. As this species has not been definitely recorded from Marin county it might be of interest to state that there is one in our collection shot by myself in January, 1880, as it was flying over our buggy in the outskirts of San Rafael. I was then returning with C. A. Allen from a trip to Pt. San Pedro (Marin County) after a vain search for the Barrow Golden-eye (*Clangula islandica*), some of which he had taken there shortly before. The spot where this egret was shot is now near the heart of the town, and on one of the principal streets.

Egretta candidissima. Snowy Egret. While the Egret (*Herodias egretta*), as noted above, seems to be increasing in numbers, it has not been my fortune to come across any Snowy Egrets for a very long time. In fact the only one in our collection is a male from the vicinity of Sacramento, California, taken in June, 1880. However, the chances are that this species has gained also by the efforts to restrict the slaughter, and probably is to be found in places most suited to it.

Grus canadensis. Little Brown Crane. There are two specimens of the Little Brown Crane in our collection which came to us from Mr. H. B. Kaeding, when we took over his collection on his departure for the Orient some years since. These specimens were purchased in the flesh by him in the San Francisco market, being among several *Grus mexicana* which he had bought at various times in the winter season, and were supposedly shot in the vicinity of Los Banos, California. At any rate they came from somewhere along the San Joaquin River in that part of the state. As records of this species from California seem to be rather meager and unreliable it may be worth while not only to mention these two specimens, but to give their measurements:

♂, Coll. J. & J. W. Mailliard, no. x3226: wing 522.1 (mm.), tail 174.6, culmen from base 101.6, depth of bill at base 24.8, tarsus 199.4, middle toe 72.6, bare portion of tibia 72.6.

♀, Coll. J. & J. W. M., no. x3227: wing 519.2, tail 162.3, culmen from base 93.9, depth of bill at base 22.6, tarsus 211.0, middle toe 79.7, bare portion of tibia 73.1.

As the distinctive difference between these two species is principally a matter of length of the culmen, tarsus and bare portion of the tibia, a comparison of these particular measurements as above given, with the minimum of each as laid down for *G. mexicana* will show that these two individuals are well below the prescribed limitations of *G. mexicana*, and that there can be no doubt as to their identity.

Minimum measurements of *G. mexicana*, according to Ridgway, are: Culmen from base 130.8 mm., tarsus 251.4, bare portion of tibia 116.8.

Piranga ludoviciana. Western Tanager. We have two records of the Western Tanager breeding at low elevations in Sonoma county, California, which may be of sufficient interest to mention here. We have, that is to say, two records, and one nest, but no eggs. A fall of twenty-five to thirty feet proved so damaging to the

shells that they were not worth while preserving. The first nest was found by John W. Mailliard near Mark West Springs, when on a collecting trip through Sonoma county with C. A. Allen. It was in a Douglas spruce, a way out on a horizontal limb. The attempt was made to tie up the limb and saw it off, but the outer end was so heavy that it dropped and spilled out the eggs—a drop of some twenty-five feet. The eggs were three in number and incubation advanced, and the date was May 19, 1884.

The second nest was found by my son and me, at Seaview, near old Fort Ross, on May 17, 1908, when we were on our way to the nest of the Monterey Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla g. slevini*) mentioned in THE CONDOR, vol. X, p. 134, and was also in a Douglas spruce, about thirty feet from the ground, and twelve or fifteen feet out from the trunk. This limb was straight across a ranch wagon road running through the forest, used often enough to be worth keeping in repair. We endeavored to sling the limb to the one above it, so as to be able to cut it off at the butt and haul it in far enough to reach the nest. But we had nothing with us but a strap or two, suspenders, etc., and the limb was so crooked and badly balanced that it turned over in spite of us, and spilled out the eggs. These were three in number and fresh. The parents were secured for the record. The nest, as was the one mentioned above, was composed principally of "Spanish moss", with a slight exterior framework of fine spruce twigs, mostly forked, among which were mingled a few dry rootlets, and lined with horsehair and some fine rootlets. The main portion of the nest—not considering the loose, surrounding framework of twigs, the ends of which projected out very irregularly to a considerable distance, and confining the limits to the more solid structure of "Spanish moss"—had an outside diameter of 127 mm. and an inside diameter of 73 mm., the depths being respectively 47.5 and 31.6. This shows the nest to be rather a shallow structure, but the main portion quite compact and well built.

Mr. P. M. Silloway, describing a nest of the Western Tanager at Flathead Lake, Montana, says: "It was made of coarse *forky* twigs as an outer framework, * * *. When removed from its site the loose twigs in the outer part of the nest fell away like that part of a grosbeak's nest." And so it was, as far as the exterior framework was concerned, with the nests taken in Sonoma county. But the Montana nest was evidently made, in the main part, of different material. These two Sonoma county nests seem to be very different from that taken in the Sierras and described by C. Barlow in *The Osprey*, Vol. I, p. 6. This difference shows that the Western Tanager is more adaptive to surroundings in the matter of elevation above sea level, and materials for nest construction, than is popularly supposed. Neither of our two records were more than a few hundred feet above sea level, and the one taken at Seaview was within three miles of the Pacific Ocean.

DOVES ON THE PIMA RESERVATION

By M. FRENCH GILMAN

THE doves in this part of Arizona form a most interesting group and even the more luke-warm bird-lovers would be delighted to study them. Their prominence both to eye and ear calls attention to them and though so numerous and common, their absence would leave a big void. The Mourning Dove, *Zenaidura m. carolinensis*, is present in greater or less numbers the entire year, breed-